

KING COUNTY LANDMARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

*Thursday, August 23, 2012
4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Tipping Floor Conference Room #7255
King Street Center
201 S. Jackson Street
Seattle, WA*

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Lauren McCroskey, Chair; Brian Rich, Vice Chair; Tom Hitzroth; Lorelea Hudson; Thaisa Way (left at 5:55); Lynette Weber

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Rick Chouinard; Kji Kelly

STAFF PRESENT: Julie Koler; Todd Scott

GUESTS: None

CALL TO ORDER: Chair McCroskey called the meeting to order at 4:50 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Staff noted that there are two sets of minutes from last year that were not approved. Commissioner Weber moved to approve the June 23, 2011 minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Rich moved to approve the May 26, 2011 minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously with Hudson, McCroskey and Way abstaining because they were absent from that meeting.

Rich said he has two revisions for the August 1, 2012 minutes. For COA No. 1214, the final sentence should read “No action was taken due to the expectation of code enforcement by the City of Shoreline. For COA No. 1120, the final sentence should read “No action was taken, but there was general consensus that the plans were acceptable”. Commissioner Hitzroth moved to approve the August 1, 2012 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously with McCroskey and Way abstaining because they were absent from that meeting.

PRESERVATION OFFICER’S REPORT: Koler reminded commissioners that the HPP strategic plan update process would begin in September and polled the commission for a possible special meeting date. October 4 was selected as the best option. The meeting would likely start at 4:30 pm and would be held at King Street Center. There was some additional discussion of alternative days and times for regular commission meetings, as Way indicated she had a very heavy class schedule and may have difficulty making all of the meetings. Most of the commissioners felt the current time was best as many would have difficulties getting away from work if the meetings were held earlier in the day.

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS:

- **Olof Olson House and Barn (COA 1222)** – replace rear deck railing and stair

Rich described the proposed project, indicating that the design review committee (DRC) had determined that *Secretary of the Interior's Standards 9 and 10* were applicable to the application. There was some question as to the actual dimensions of the railing, which were clarified by Scott, who indicated the railing would meet current building code requirements for height and spacing. Way said it was a reasonable request and a good solution.

The Commission concurred with the DRC that the applicable standards are met. For *Standard 9*, the new railing and stair do not impact any historic materials, features or significant spatial relationships. They are replacements for existing features that are only about 20 years old. The new railing and stair are compatible with the historic railings in that they use square balusters, painted white and equally spaced between concrete (or stucco) posts. They are differentiated in that the balusters and rails are slightly smaller, using nominally sized modern lumber and the entire rail assembly is taller, to meet modern building codes.

For *Standard 10*, the railing and stairs could be removed with no impact to the integrity of the property. It is unlikely they would be, as this would eliminate legal use of the deck, but if they were removed it would have no impact on the historic features/materials of the landmark. This standard is met.

Way moved to approve the Type II COA to replace the rear deck railing and stairs on the Olof Olson House as recommended by DRC and to ratify the agreement between DRC and the applicant, with the conditions that photos of the completed project be submitted to commission staff and that "appearance" grade pressure treated material (with no incision marks) be used for the railings. The motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Koler said that the election of officers had been deferred this year pending appointment of new commissioners. Since that is taking longer than anticipated, she said it is appropriate to elect officers at this time. Commissioner Rich nominated Tom Hitzroth for chair. Hitzroth declined saying that McCroskey should continue at least until her replacement is appointed. Rich withdrew his nomination and nominated Hitzroth for vice chair. The motion passed unanimously. Way nominated McCroskey for chair. The motion passed unanimously.

WORK SESSION: Koler initiated a discussion about the objectives and schedule for the upcoming strategic plan update. The discussion expanded with an emphasis on thinking "outside of the box" about how the county does preservation. Way indicated that Victoria, B.C. has incentives available for community landmarks and that it might be a good model to examine in the planning process. She suggested taking a look at "Landscape Narratives" by Matthew Potteiger and Jamie Purinton, good sources for unconventional methods of conveying information for the program.

Koler said the schedule for the update is ambitious as we hope to have it completed by July 2013. There will be a citizen's advisory committee to guide the planning process and it is important to

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have knowledgeable individuals participate. She said that Lorelea has agreed to represent the commission on the CAC. Koler said she hopes to have all commissioners attend the CAC meetings, because it is important for them to weigh on a number of issues particularly the priorities for the program. McCroskey reiterated her feelings that education and outreach are key elements to focus on in the plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Rich indicated that the project to stabilize the Kvisvik-Martindale chicken house on Vashon Island is on hold while he investigates issues surrounding liability for volunteers. He said there is a good set of drawings for the building, prepared by one of the students who participated in the Storefront Studio project, and he and the contractor will be reviewing these to determine what materials and type of work will be needed when the actual stabilization occurs.

Hitzroth said that the Redmond City Council has a practice of meeting periodically with each of the city's commissions and boards and would be meeting with the Redmond Landmark Commission soon.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.